

**From:** [Bianchi, Dominic](#)  
**To:** [ALL ITC](#)  
**Subject:** Notification on Prohibited Personnel Practices and Whistleblower Protections  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 29, 2019 9:31:13 PM

---

The purpose of this communication is to ensure that all Commission employees are aware of and understand the prohibited personnel practices and whistleblower protections available to federal employees.

Please review the following fact sheet, "[Your Rights as a Federal Employee](#)," which provides detailed information on the 13 prohibited personnel practices (PPPs). This fact sheet also apprises employees of their rights to file corresponding complaints with the U.S. Office of Special Counsel (OSC), an independent agency that protects federal employees from PPPs, including whistleblower retaliation and unlawful hiring practices. OSC also provides an independent, secure channel for disclosing and resolving wrongdoing in federal agencies.

The Whistleblower Protection Act of 1989 and the Whistleblower Protection Enhancement Act of 2012 provide the right for all covered Federal employees to make whistleblower disclosures, and to seek protections from whistleblower retaliation. The Dr. Chris Kirkpatrick Whistleblower Protection Act of 2017 and OSC's Reauthorization Act of 2017 further enhanced and reinforced these rights and protections.

Whistleblowing means the lawful disclosure of information that an employee reasonably believes evidences one or more of the following: a violation of any law, rule or regulation; gross mismanagement; gross waste of funds; an abuse of authority; a substantial and specific danger to public health or safety; or censorship related to scientific research or analysis. Employees may make such disclosures to anyone, including management officials, the USITC Inspector General, OSC, and/or Congress.

Additionally, please review [Know Your Rights When Reporting Wrongs](#), which describes different avenues for making whistleblower disclosures as federal employees.

You also may find more information on PPPs and whistleblowing on the [OSC website](#).

Dominic L. Bianchi  
General Counsel  
U.S. International Trade Commission  
[500 E Street, SW](#)  
[Washington, DC 20436](#)

(b) (6)